



Arizona Department of Public Safety

- For Immediate Release -

Thursday, November 29, 2007

Arizona Department of Public Safety announces installation of new freeway and highway signage promoting the “Move Over” law

Signs will help educate the public about this little known and relatively new traffic law designed to help protect and save the lives of first responders

The Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS), along with the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT), announced a joint campaign to remind drivers of the “Move Over” law (ARS §28-775E-1-2). This little known and relatively new law was drafted as a result of the increase in the number of traffic related injuries and fatalities to those working to protect the public – police officers and emergency personnel.

Passed by the Arizona Legislature and signed into law by Governor Janet Napolitano in 2005, the “Move Over” law mandates that motorists in Arizona safely merge to an adjacent lane on roadways with two or more lanes proceeding in the same direction when police or emergency personnel are stopped near or on the road. The law recognizes that sometimes it is not safely possible to “Move Over” or the second lane just does not exist. Those situations call for reduced speeds and proceeding with extreme caution.

ADOT will be placing 22 large signs along highways around the state to remind drivers to observe the “Move Over” law. Following today’s news conference, ADOT will place a sign along Interstate 10 in the Phoenix Metro area and another sign on Interstate 10 in the Tucson Metro area.

“We at DPS have lost far too many officers over the years that died after being struck by passing vehicles while they were assisting motorists by the side of the road. We thank our partners at ADOT for helping us educate the public about the importance of observing the ‘Move Over’ law through these new signs,” said Roger Vanderpool, Director of the Arizona Department of Public Safety.

“A total of 22 ‘Move Over’ law signs will be posted along highways across the state,” said ADOT Director Victor Mendez. “In a growing state like ours, the number of drivers on our highways is soaring. Police and emergency personnel constantly face increased traffic dangers. ADOT is eager to use these signs to remind drivers about their responsibility to ‘move over’ or slow down so emergency workers on roadways have a safety margin that could save their lives.”

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“First responders are risking life and limb to help others, especially when they are stopped on or near roadways with fast moving traffic. Let’s give them some room to do their job safely. Move Over,” said Phoenix Fire Chief Bob Khan.

“The City of Phoenix is very pleased with the passing of this traffic law. The law will make our officers, and the citizens we come into contact with, safer by reducing the speed of vehicles passing our traffic stops, or critical scenes requiring police protection. When possible, the law will provide officers conducting business on the side of a roadway with a safety margin by requiring approaching vehicles to safely merge to an adjacent lane on the roadway if it has two or more lanes proceeding in the same direction,” said Jack Harris Phoenix Police Chief.

“The South Tucson Police Department fully supports the ‘Move Over’ law enacted in 2005. This law is designed to protect first responders and the public from the risk of a serious or deadly collision. I encourage all drivers to be aware of and fully comply with the ‘Move Over’ law and make the roads and highways we share safe for all,” said Sharon Hayes-Martinez, Acting Chief South Tucson Police Department.

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